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Approved For Release 2004/10/28 : CIA-RDP80R01720R001300020047-1

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2 March 1970

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Laos/Cambodia Ad Hoc Collection Committee

1. There have been several developments in the field we discussed during our 2 December 1969 conversation and covered in our December exchange of informal memoranda. You may have already heard of these developments through military channels, but I wanted to send this message to be sure you were aware of work being done here on matters of common concern to all members of the US intelligence community with Vietnam related responsibilities.

2. As you will recall, on 2 December one of the things we talked about was the 18 July 1969 study entitled, "Intensified Collection Against Logistics Networks Supporting Communist Activity in South Vietnam" that was prepared at Dr. Kissinger's request by an ad hoc interagency task force which I chaired. On 19 January 1970, Dr. Kissinger wrote the Director of Central Intelligence with reference to this study, noted that specific recommendations were needed for the President's consideration, and directed that these recommendations be drawn up by CIA in cooperation with the Departments of State and Defense. The DCI asked me to oversee the preparation of the community response to this White House request.

3. In direct conversation, I suggested that the requested paper and recommendations be prepared by a slightly expanded version of the same ad hoc interagency committee that had prepared the 18 July study and was already working on the problem. Dr. Kissinger concurred and explained in detail what was wanted, giving policy guidance to our efforts and in the process somewhat broadening our terms of reference. We are tasked with analyzing all of the US Government's present efforts that collect intelligence on the flow of North Vietnamese manpower and logistic support to the struggle in South Vietnam. On the basis of this analysis, we are to offer recommendations for (a) improvements achievable within the parameters of current programs and asset allocations and (b) additional programs, techniques or collection efforts that could improve the quantity, quality or timeliness of the US Government's intelligence on these topics.

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4. Dr. Kissinger explained that we should have no inhibitions with respect to the scale, scope or nature of our recommendations to higher levels on either improvements in the mix of current efforts or in additional efforts of demonstrable potential value. He made it very clear, however, that the committee was to present its recommendations as a graded series of options rather than in the form of a single "accept or reject" package.

5. The committee now working on this problem consists of representatives from appropriate components of DIA, NSA, State and the Agency plus representatives of OASD/Systems Analysis, JCS/SACSA, J-3 (JRC), DCPG, AFXOP, AFNIC and AFNIN. The cooperative spirit and energy with which all members have pitched in, keeping their eyes constantly focused on the national interest, has been both gratifying and heartening. We obviously hope to produce a consensus paper that says something meaningful and worthwhile. The right to dissent (i.e., take footnotes in the final product) will of course be scrupulously preserved if irreconcilable differences develop, but none have yet materialized.

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Furthermore, there were two logistic support systems to consider, i.e., Laos-down and Cambodia (Sihanoukville)-up. We decided to start by attacking the various pieces of the total problem separately, seeing what could be done within the parameters of current efforts and then looking to potentially fruitful add-ons.

7. In line with the thinking outlined above, the overall group has broken into three subcommittees, two of whose tasks are strikingly similar to those of the ICG study groups now meeting at CINCPAC. One of our subcommittees (NSA, CIA, Air Force and DIA) is canvassing new or augmented COMINT collection modes

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8. The initial draft submissions of each of the three subcommittees will be reviewed and discussed by the whole committee on 19 February. I am sure we will need at least one more go-around at the subcommittee level before we begin combining inputs into a single paper. We have no fixed deadline but are under the gun to send the completed study and recommendation options package forward as soon as possible.

9. One of the first observations I made from the chair at our initial meeting was the essential importance of having the views of all concerned field components, especially MACV and CINCPAC, adequately voiced, considered and reflected in our final submission. Committee assent on this score was immediate and unanimous. The main object of this message is to apprise you, and General Keegan, of developments in order to solicit your thoughts on the optimum mode of obtaining the necessary MACV and CINCPAC inputs. I realize there are a number of complex questions here involved, including valid considerations of military staff procedure and protocol. I am certainly open to any suggestions you or General Keegan may want to offer, through any channel. We could send preliminary drafts of the combined paper to CINCPAC and MACV for comment or I, at least, would welcome the participation of MACV and CINCPAC officers in the work of our Washington committee. I would appreciate receiving your thoughts on this topic as soon as you can conveniently transmit them.

10. In light of their obvious concern with the matters considered, I am asking my colleagues in Honolulu and Saigon to give copies of this message to General Keegan and Captain Pierucki. Thank you again for your time and courtesy last December. With best personal regards.

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Copy No. 1A - L/C Ad Hoc File

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- 1 - Lt. Gen. Philpott
- 2 - Mr. G. L. Tucker
- 3 - The Honorable Ray S. Cline
- 4 - Vice Adm. Noel Gayler

- 7 - Lt. Gen. Donald V. Bennett
- 8 - Mr. T. J. Burckell
- 9 - Lt. Gen. J. D. Lavelle
- 10 - Maj. Gen. Sam J. Byerley
- 11 - Maj. Gen. ~~XXXX~~Rockly Triantafellu
- 12 - Brig. Gen. R. D. Steakley

- 14 - Brig. Gen. Donald D. Blackburn
- 15 - Lt. Col. Daniel O. Graham
- 16 - Col. Robert E. Hayes
- 17 - VAS/RAC Chrono
- 18 - Extra in L/C Ad Hoc File

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VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS STAFF

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DATE: 3 March 1970

TO: Lt. Gen. J. M. Philpott
Deputy Director, DIA

FROM:

SUBJECT:

REMARKS

Attached for your information is the text of my cable to General Potts, a copy of which I asked my colleagues in [redacted] to pass to General Keegan. I am sending copies of this text to all the principals on our ad hoc committee.

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[redacted]

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George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

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